

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 21, 2020**

Council Members M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President; Michael Blue, Vice-President, Jerry Donald, Kai Hagen, Jessica Fitzwater, Phil Dacey and Steve McKay were present for the meeting.

Also present were Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff, County Council; Bryon Black, Assistant County Attorney; Sarah Ambrosio, Recording Secretary; and Sydnee Klimko, Legislative Analyst, County Council.

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. virtually via video conference.

**Opening Statement from Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer**

Good Evening and welcome to the virtual meeting of the Frederick County Council. Today is Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

In light of the coronavirus pandemic and the State of Emergency that exists in Maryland, the Frederick County Council will be conducting all of our meetings on-line during this time.

The Council will operate with our normal agenda with a few modifications specifically for the public. This is our first virtual meeting so please be patient as we work out some of the challenges associated with having so many people working remotely.

With the aid of technology, the Council members and any presenters will appear on screen utilizing Microsoft Teams software. As President, I will recognize each council member or speaker by name for the public. Our procedures may move more slowly at first but we should pick up as we become more familiar with these changes.

Our meetings will continue to be televised on Frederick County Government Channel 19, on Frederick County Government's website: [www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov), and also live streamed on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FrederickCountyMD>

On our legislative days, we will still be accepting public comment for the first 15 minutes of the meeting. These comments can be made via email ([Councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov)), or via Facebook (Frederick County Government). These comments will be reflected in our minutes of the meeting with the name of the speaker and subject matter. We will also accept comments at the end of the meeting and add them to the record. Again, these comments will be reflected in the minutes by the name of the speaker and the subject and will be shown at the conclusion of the meeting minutes. An important change during this time of virtual meetings, we will be accepting comments from the public until 5:00 pm on the following business day and all will be included in the minutes. This means if we have a meeting on Tuesday (as is our regular meeting day, the public may submit their comments until 5:00 pm on Wednesday.

Comments can also be left on the Council's phone number at: 301-600-1135. Verbal comments will be transcribed and added to the record.

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During these virtual meetings, I will periodically stop to allow the members to ask any questions they might have on the issue being discussed...I will call the council members by name and will proceed in alphabetical order for any questions as well as any roll call votes to make sure the public is aware of which member has the floor for speaking and how each council member votes.

As a caution to our Council Members – Please be respectful of each other's time and wait to be recognized by me before you begin to speak. Unfortunately with this particular format if more than one person is talking at one time, the microphone goes dead and there is no sound. This will create problems for the viewing public, will cause confusion making it difficult for the public to fully understand what's going on. So please wait to be recognized. I will call you in alphabetical order, so formulate your question and you will be prepared when I get to you. If you do not have a question, just say pass....

I want to thank our Council staff who have all been hard at work with the County's Interagency Information Technologies Division, the County Attorney's Office and the Director of Communications to develop the ability for us to conduct our meetings using an on-line format so that we can continue to provide essential county services during the State of Emergency while we deal with this global coronavirus pandemic. As Council President, I wanted to hold the first virtual meeting specifically with less-essential items to allow the members, staff and the public to become acquainted with this new and hopefully very short temporary process. Despite the stay-at-home directives, the Council must continue to carry out our responsibilities to provide for the orderly continuation of county government activities and functions. This virtual format will allow us to meet those responsibilities. In addition, this shortened agenda today will allow time for the County Executive to join us for an update on the corona virus, which you will see I added to our agenda this morning.

It is my intention to begin to schedule in-person meetings again as soon as possible. However, the health and safety of the residents of Frederick County is of the utmost importance at this time. I want to assure the public we will re-schedule any of the postponed items when this virus is better contained, the danger to the general public is significantly reduced and gathering in large crowds is once again permitted. Until then, I urge every resident to stay at home and follow the lead and direction of our public health officials to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Further, I encourage all our residents to follow updates posted in the Frederick County Health Department's website (<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/>).

To begin our meeting, I will start with a roll call vote to determine a quorum, since not everyone is visible on the screen. Just respond with "here". Again, going in alphabetical order: CM Blue, Dacey, Donald, Fitzwater, Hagen, and McKay. The President conducted a roll call of the members. All seven (7) council members responded in the affirmative.

Now, please join us for a moment of silence, please remember those who are working so hard to contain this deadly disease, all those working on the front lines, the doctors, nurses, hospital staff, the emergency responders, the families and friends of those who have been sickened and are fighting for their lives, and unfortunately those who have lost their battle and have died..

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Action on the Agenda**

*Council Member Michael Blue moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Council Member Kai Hagen seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer	X		

**Public Comment was heard from:**

- None

**Business Items:****Budget Adjustments**

- Board of Education School Construction Fund Amendment #20-10 – Budget Office
- J-20-257 and Board of Education School Construction Fund Amendment #20-12 – Finance Division

*Council Member Kai Hagen moved to approve the budget adjustment Board of Education School Construction Fund Amendment #20-10, and J-20-257 and Board of Education School Construction Fund Amendment #20-12 as presented. Council Member Steve McKay seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer	X		

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**Approval of Minutes from March 10, March 17, and April 7, 2020, and Closed Session Minutes from March 3, and March 10, 2020**

*Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve the minutes March 10, March 17, and April 7, 2020, and Closed Session Minutes from March 3, and March 10, 2020 as presented. Council Member Jessica Fitzwater seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer	X		

**Motion to take Constant Yield to Public Hearing**

Kelly Weaver, Director, Budget Office presented information to the Council on a Motion to take Constant Yield to Public Hearing.

*Council Member Jessica Fitzwater moved to approve the Motion to take Constant Yield to Public Hearing on May 5, 2020, as presented. Council Member Kai Hagen seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer	X		

**Public Hearing:**

**Board of Education FY 2021 Budget**

Kelly Weaver, Director, Budget Office presented information to the Council on the Board of Education FY 2021 Budget.

Public comment:

- Dr. Theresa Alban, Superintendent of FCPS
- Brad Young, Board of Education President
- Dr. Elizabeth Burmaster, President Frederick Community College

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**Frederick County Government FY 2021 Budget**

Kelly Weaver, Director, Budget Office presented information to the Council on the Frederick County Government FY 2021 Budget.

Public comment is attached

**Public Comment was heard from:**

- Max – Frederick – Phone message supporting the R.I.S.E. Coalition of Western Maryland

**Council Member Comments:**

Council Member comments were provided.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President  
County Council

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**Video Statement in support of increasing funding for Frederick County Public Schools**

Dr. Theresa Alban, Superintendent of FCPS

**Email in favor of the County Executive Budget for Frederick County Public Schools**

Brad Young, Board of Education President

**Email in favor of the County Executive Budget for Frederick Community College**

Dr. Elizabeth Burmaster, President Frederick Community College

**Emails received in support of increasing funding for Frederick County Public Schools:**

Katherine J. Becker of Montgomery County  
Kristina Weber of Clear Spring, Maryland  
Laura McNally of Ijamsville  
Michelle Hohorst of Frederick  
Holly Bauknecht of Hagerstown  
Kelsey Fletcher of Frederick  
Pam Wallace of Gettysburg  
Ronnie Beard of Columbia  
Jennifer Schmidt of Middletown  
Heidi Hench of Thurmont  
Michelle Driver of Frederick  
Amber Patterson of Woodbine  
Erin Phillips of Knoxville  
Sandra Brower of Frederick  
Tricia Engel of Monrovia  
Stacey Parks of Brunswick  
William Eckard of Mt. Airy  
Rodney Wade of Frederick  
Jeanine Hansell-Frimpong of Hagerstown  
Joseph Hawkins of Myersville  
Bev Lloyd of Mt. Airy  
R. E. Carter of Frederick  
Lauren Koogler of New Market  
Allison Brown of Hagerstown  
Jamie Aldridge of Brunswick  
Molly Smith of Thurmont  
Jennifer Sparks of Frederick  
Lanisa D'Onofrio of New Market  
Andree Grove of Frederick  
Anne Thigpen of New Market  
Patricia Kolias of Middletown  
Michele Weiler of New Market  
Anthony Digman of Sykesville  
Jennifer Weiss of Frederick  
Julie Bobrow of Damascus  
Elizabeth Ericsson of Point of Rocks  
Andrew Velnoskey of Woodsboro  
Ann DeArmon of Frederick  
Sara Caldwell of Middletown  
Davie Friedman of Frederick  
Ryan Hahn of Walkersville  
Stephen Vandevander of Frederick

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Louisa Baker of Keymar  
John Keimig of Myersville  
Karen Tintle-Cook of Keedysville  
Michael Reeves of Walkersville  
Jan Stitley of Frederick  
Randall Ransom of Frederick  
Jennifer Evans of New Market  
Angie Brown of Middletown  
Robin Hollin of Hagerstown  
Lisa Tucker of Walkersville  
Philip Allen of Middletown  
Kimberly Brandenburg of New Market  
Karen Joyce-Wells of Smithsburg  
Teresa Ismach of Frederick  
Blake Williams of Frederick  
Sandra Cafarelli of Frederick  
Karima Sharper of Frederick  
Elizabeth Paul of Hagerstown  
Kathy Veronie of Thurmont  
Christina Fowler of Olney  
Teresa Fowler Meggitt of Myersville  
Heather Wilhelm of Middletown  
Tracey Cassidy of Ellicott City  
Renata Emery of Frederick  
Jamie Fox, West Virginia  
Colin Shultzaberger, address not given  
Jeannine Ranniger of Middletown  
Lydia Kowalski of Boonesboro  
Anna Hild of Woodbine  
Ray and Elizabeth Dudley of Frederick  
William Houston of Frederick  
Anna Hild of Woodbine  
Jennifer Dye of Walkersville  
Kristy Bernard of Middletown  
Jing Qian of Frederick  
Kaitlyn Winfield of Westminster  
Cindy Newmeyer of Frederick  
Collin Kenny of Frederick  
Michelle Plumer of Mount Airy  
Victoria Love of Frederick  
Tracy Fuentes of Frederick  
Audrey Ellis of Frederick  
Jessica Myers of Frederick  
Tina Sanford of Monrovia  
Carol Keyser of Frederick  
Kate Best of Thurmont  
John Powell of Jefferson  
Angela Garcia of Middletown  
Karen Wills of Frederick  
Lauren Gordon of Frederick  
Victoria Barron of Brunswick  
Rebecca Kidd of Frederick

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Sean McKillop of Frederick  
Karl Kidd of Frederick  
Kathleen Zimmerman of Thurmont  
Megan Bainbridge of Frederick  
Cathlyn Babb of Frederick  
Vanessa Dorsey of Frederick  
Jennifer Newcomer of Frederick  
Jennifer Cooper of Frederick  
Lori Dubbs of New Market  
Breanne Byam of Frederick  
Alisha Kettermann of Walkersville  
Shay Mace of Middletown  
Deja Thomas of Montgomery County  
Amanda Asbury of Jefferson  
Jennifer Holliday of Frederick  
Katherine Pyle of Union Bridge  
Leane Pupo of Frederick  
Charles Berry of Frederick  
Danielle Grace of Frederick  
Cari Wolf of Middletown  
Lucas Hogan (no address given)  
Staveh Taylor of Boonsboro  
Jonathan Kurtz (no address given)  
Jennifer Reynolds of Knoxville  
Paul Mock of Frederick  
M. Plost of Rohrsersville  
Wendy Campbell of Jefferson  
Julie Aderhold of Frederick  
Missy Dirks (no address given) FCTA President  
Andrea Oudshoorn (no address given)  
Loretta Ober of Hagerstown

**Emails received in favor of maintaining current tax rate**

Michael Bunitsky of Frederick  
Janice Daffern of Frederick  
Karen Wolcott of Frederick

**Emails against wage or tax increase**

Vanessa Lamendola of Frederick  
Steve and Teresa Blair of Ijamsville  
Brent Simmons of Frederick  
Bobby of Frederick

**Email in favor of a COLA for "frozen" employees**

Lauren Englar of Frederick

**Emails in favor of adding a spanish speaking immigrant community liaison for city hall & county offices and a county public library and community rec center in west Frederick on the Golden Mile. Against using FY 2021 funds for IGSA contract and 287(g)**

Beth Willis of Frederick  
Rev. Julie Wilson of Mount Airy



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Juliana Downey of Frederick  
Margarita Gallegos (no address given)  
Dr. Kate Sugarman of Montgomery County  
Jo Harte of Frederick  
Richard Kaplowitz of Frederick  
Flor Florecita of Frederick  
Amelia Saris (no address given)  
Allison Young (no address given)  
Mary Ford of Buckeystown  
Maria Rodriguez (no address given)  
Lacey Walker of Frederick  
Sara Ryan of Frederick  
Julia Schaeffer of Frederick

**Emails against using FY 2021 funds for IGSA contract and 287(g)**

Sea Raven of Frederick  
Eileen Benecke of New Market

**In favor of funding the MOU between the YMCA and the County to construct the South County YMCA facility with a pool**

Steve Heine of Woodsboro  
Tom Taylor of Frederick  
Tom Lynch of Frederick  
Scott Cowperthwaite (no address given)

REVISED: 4/21/20 @ 7:05pm

**Facebook comments received in support of increasing funding for Frederick County Public Schools**

Andrea Oudshoorn (no address given)  
Amanda Leal (no address given)  
Julie Palardy Smith (no address given)  
Nikole Brundick (no address given)  
Annette Johnson (no address given)  
Jenny Chow D'Agostino (no address given)  
Olalla Prado (no address given)  
Megan Smith (no address given)  
Jennie Purdy Lane (no address given)

**Facebook comments received in support of funding the YMCA**

Suzi Taylor (no address given)

**Facebook comments received in support of funding Public Health**

Nikole Brundick (no address given)

**Facebook comments received in support of funding Continuation and Expansion of School Productions Programming**

Julie Herber (no address given)

**FINAL**

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**Voicemail comments received in support of review agency metrics, goals and accomplishments in budget review**

Edward Burrell – Point of Rocks

REVISED: 4/22/2020 @ 10:45am